

**Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

- Claim 21      An oral rinse composition, comprising:  
                 at least about 0.04% benzocaine,  
                 less than about 10% by weight carbomer; and  
                 a solvent system comprising water as a predominate solvent.
- Claim 22      The composition of claim 21 wherein said composition is free of aliphatic  
                 alcoholic solvents.
- Claim 23      The composition of claim 21 comprising greater than about 80% by  
                 weight water.
- Claim 24.      The composition of claim 23 comprising from about 0.04 to about 5 % by  
                 weight of said benzocaine.
- Claim 25.      The composition of claim 24 wherein the weight ratio of said benzocaine  
                 to said carbomer is about 2:1.
- Claim 26.      The composition of claim 25 comprising greater than about 90% by  
                 weight water.
- Claim 27.      The composition of claim 23 comprising a neutralizing agent in an amount  
                 effective to provide the composition with a pH of about 8 or greater.

**Claim 28.** The composition of claim 27 comprising from about 0.001% to about 3% by weight of said neutralizing agent.

**Claim 29.** The composition of claim 28 wherein said neutralizing agent comprises triethanolamine.

**Claim 30.** The composition of claim 21 wherein said composition is free of non-alcoholic organic solvents.

**Claim 31.** The composition of claim 30 comprising greater than about 80% by weight of said water, from about 0.04% to about 5% by weight of said benzocaine, up to about 10% by weight of said carbomer, and from about 0.001% to about 3% by weight of said neutralizing agent, said composition having a pH of about 8 or higher.